

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 23-42 as follows. Please add new claims 43-46 as follows.

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A network, comprising:

a controller configured to communicate with a plurality of radiotelephones via respective communication channels over a carrier, wherein the channels are configured to operate at a first or second data rate such that the carrier ~~transmits~~ is configured to transmit data through a single communication channel operating at the first data rate or two communication channels operating at the second data rate, and, in response to an initiation of a call with a second network, configured to initiate a change in a data rate of a transmitting channel from the first data rate to the second data rate.

24. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ network according to claim 23 wherein the communication channels are timeslots on the carrier.

25. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ network according to claim 24, wherein the channels are configured to operate at a first or second data rate such that a timeslot on the carrier ~~transmits~~ is configured to transmit a single communication channel operating at the first data rate or two communication channels operating at the second data rate.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The network according to claim 24 wherein the controller is responsive to the initiation of the call with the second network for initiating a change in the data rate of two channels transmitted on separate timeslots from the first data rate to the second data rate and combining the two channels onto the same timeslot.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The network according to claim 23, wherein the first data rate is a full speech rate and the second data rate is a half speech rate.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The network according to claim 23, wherein the controller is responsive to the number of channels established in the network exceeding a predetermined threshold for initiating a change in the data rate of the transmitted channel from the first data rate to the second data rate.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The network according to claim 23, wherein the controller is further configured to perform the change of data rate of a transmitted channel ~~is performed~~ for a connection between subscribers within the network.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~A controller~~An apparatus configured to operate in a network, the ~~controller~~apparatus comprising:

a responding unit configured to respond to an initiation of a call with a second network, wherein ~~the~~ a network communicates-is configured to communicate with a plurality of radiotelephones via respective communication channels over a carrier, the channels are configured to operate at a first or second data rate such that the carrier ~~transmits-is configured to transmit~~ data through a single communication channel operating at the first data rate or two communication channels operating at the second data rate; and

an initiating unit configured to initiate a change in a data rate of a transmitting channel from the first data rate to the second data rate.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~A controller~~ The apparatus according to claim 30 wherein the communication channels are timeslots on the carrier.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~A controller~~ The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the channels ~~are operable~~ are configured to operate at a first or second data rate such that a timeslot on the carrier ~~transmits-is configured to transmit~~ a single communication operating at the first data rate or two communication channels operating at the second data rate.

33. (Currently Amended) ~~A controller~~ The apparatus according to claim 31 wherein the ~~controller~~ apparatus is responsive to the initiation of a channel with the

second network for initiating a change in the data rate of two channels transmitted on separate timeslots from the first data rate to the second data rate and combining the two channels onto the same timeslot.

34. (Currently Amended) ~~A controller~~ The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the first data rate is a full speech rate and the second data rate is a half speech rate.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~A controller~~ The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the ~~controller~~ apparatus is responsive to the number of channels established in the network exceeding a predetermined threshold for initiating a change in the data rate of the transmitted channel from the first data rate to the second data rate.

36. (Currently Amended) ~~A controller~~ The apparatus according to claim 30 wherein the initiating device is further configured to perform the change of data rate of a transmitted channel ~~is performed~~ for a connection between subscribers within the network.

37. (Currently Amended) ~~A radiotelephone~~ An apparatus, configured to operate ~~with a network, the radiotelephone comprising:~~

a controller, in response to a signal from ~~the~~ a network, configured to change a data rate of data being transmitted through a channel ~~of the radiotelephone~~, wherein the network ~~initiates~~ is configured to initiate a change in the data rate of the channel from a first data rate to a second data rate in response to an initiation of a call between the network and a second network.

38. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of communicating through a network with a plurality of radiotelephones via respective communication channels over a carrier,~~ comprising:

operating ~~the channels~~ communication channels over a carrier in a network at a first or second data rate such that the carrier transmits data through a single communication channel operating at the first data rate or two communication channels operating at the second data rate; and

changing a data rate of a transmitting channel from the first data rate to the second data rate in response to an initiation of a call with a second network.

39. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 38 wherein the communication channels are timeslots on the carrier.

40. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 39, wherein the channels operate at a first or second data rate such that a timeslot on the carrier transmits

a single communication channel operating at the first data rate or two communication channels operating at the second data rate.

41. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method according to claim 38, further comprising:

in response to the predetermined condition, initiating a change in the data rate of two channels transmitted on separate timeslots from the first data rate to the second data rate; and

combining the two channels onto the same timeslot.

42. (Currently Amended) ~~A controller~~ An apparatus configured to operate in a network, the ~~controller~~ apparatus comprising:

responding means for responding to an initiation of a call with a second network, wherein ~~the~~ a network communicates with a plurality of radiotelephones via respective communication channels over a carrier, the channels are configured to operate at a first or second data rate such that the carrier transmits data through a single communication channel operating at the first data rate or two communication channels operating at the second data rate; and

initiating means for initiating a change in a data rate of a transmitting channel from the first data rate to the second data rate.

43. (New) A network, comprising:

communicating means for communicating with a plurality of radiotelephones via respective communication channels over a carrier, wherein the channels are configured to operate at a first or second data rate such that the carrier is configured to transmit data through a single communication channel operating at the first data rate or two communication channels operating at the second data rate; and

initiating means for initiating, in response to an initiation of a call with a second network, a change in a data rate of a transmitting channel from the first data rate to the second data rate.

44. (New) The apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the apparatus is a radiotelephone.